



Generation Green

Destiny Hodges, Generation Green
Washington D.C

☀ Call to Action

Understand that climate change issues are multifaceted: social, economic, and generational. Help us search for holistic solutions! Learn more about Destiny's ventures: www.gen-green.org.

☀ Values

- Solidarity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Respect
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

Use your voice to speak for those who have been neglected, or whose voices may not be being heard.

Climate change affects more than the planet's temperatures: it affects people's health, their standard of living, and their future.

To engage a community and achieve change, build deep and meaningful relationships with people.

Destiny Hodges always wanted to become a journalist. She joined her middle school's broadcasting class, and became a news editor in high school.

She even started her school's newspaper Out of the Blue. She knows how important it is to have one's story told. That is why, when she learned about climate change, she was shocked to see that reporting on climate change left out one of the most important parts: the stories of the communities most affected by the climate change; for the most part, people of color. Destiny has made it her mission to change that. With her NGO Generation Green, she is building networks between activists, and amplifying the voices of young black environmental activists around the world.

☀ Language Arts

Write a [newspaper article¹](#) about the air quality in your community: Are there any factories or businesses that are polluting the air around you? What are the biggest pollutants in your area? What are the consequences in terms of the health of your community? What does your community's situation have in common with Destiny's situation? Why do you think that is?

Working in groups of 5-7 people, create an [Editable Newspaper Template²](#) using Google Docs. Use it to create a newspaper page featuring the articles you wrote in the previous activity.

Present your newspaper page to the rest of your class. After the presentations are done, organize a class discussion in which you compare and contrast the information you and your classmates found with the information presented in your local newspaper. Write a short essay detailing your findings. Get it published in your school or local newspaper.

STEM Activities

Using a weather app or website, monitor the UV index in your community and compare that to another community of your choice that is a significant distance away. Choose a type of graph or chart to display the results. What is the average UV index in your community? What is the average UV index of the other community?

In this lesson plan from [TeachEngineering.org](https://www.teachengineering.org)³, students explore the concepts of air pollution, air quality, and climate change. First they use M&M® candies to create pie graphs that express their understanding of the composition of air. Next, they watch and conduct simple experiments to develop an understanding of the properties of air. Finally, they develop awareness and understanding of the daily air quality using the online Air Quality Index (AQI).

What does climate change look like in your community? How do you see its effects in your everyday life? What depictions of climate change have you seen in the media? What new ways can you imagine to depict climate change? Use technology and online tools to create a different way to communicate the impacts of climate change in your community.

Sustainability Innovations

Assess the work of [Generation Green](#)⁴. How can students collaborate to highlight the work of these young leaders and shed light on these issues with others as well?

In addition to her work with [Generation Green](#), [Destiny Hodges](#) is one of the team members of [Hip Hop Caucus](#). [Hip Hop Caucus](#)⁵ helps to connect the hip hop community with the civic process in order to create change. Do you think that hip hop and political agendas have been mutually exclusive in their approach to engaging the community? How could collaboration between these two entities, and similar collaborations, serve to create a better world?

Destiny's greatest strength is her ability to engage people and shed light on issues that others may not be properly addressing. In this [World War Zero Article](#)⁶, Leah Thomas describes how climate justice is social justice. Compare the work of Leah and Destiny. What are some of your takeaways? How would you address our intersectional problems?

Sustainability Career Pathways

Environmental Journalist. Journalism is a powerful tool for drawing attention to and encouraging reform. Environmental journalists focus on sustainability, climate, toxic substances, and environmental justice. Learn more about this career [here](#)⁷. Another valuable resource is the [Society of Environmental Journalists](#)⁸, which offers job boards, mentoring, annual conferences, and listservs for environmental journalists.

Sustainability Director at a University or School. Colleges, universities, and even some high schools are hiring sustainability directors, who coordinate sustainability initiatives throughout different departments--from maintenance and transportation, to energy use, and even classroom curricula. Learn more about this job—which is heavy on management, leadership, and coordination--[here](#)⁹.

Environmental Justice Advocate. [Environmental justice](#)¹⁰ grapples with improving the air and water quality of urban areas and other affected communities. Check out jobs at thousands of small community organizations, [national organizations](#)¹¹, and government

agencies like the [EPA](#)¹² and its environmental justice efforts.

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6C8N-IRd4o>

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0sAnr2GaY8>

3 https://www.teachengineering.org/lessons/view/cub_air_lesson01

4 <https://www.gen-green.org/howwework>

5 <https://hiphopcaucus.org/team/destiny-hodges/>

6 <https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2020/07/climate-justice-is-social-justice/>

7 <https://therevelator.org/environmental-journalism/>

8 <https://www.sej.org/>

9 <https://www.studyinternational.com/news/jobs-of-the-future-how-do-i-become-a-sustainability-manager/>

10 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_justice

11 <https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/stories/nonprofits-fighting-for-social-environmental-justice>

12 <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community>

